

# NEW YORK'S FRENCH THEATRE



FLORA MERRILL, FRED WALTON, JOHN HENDRICKS, NAT M. WILLS and RHEA NORTON in "CHEER UP" at the HIPPODROME.

JACQUES COPEAU is in Paris making various arrangements for the season of French drama to be given at the old Garrick Theatre. He has called this little playhouse, however, after the theatre in Paris in which his fame was acquired. So it is to be the "Theatre du Vieux-Colombier" of New York, although this city possesses no street of that name. M. Copeau could bring the name here, but even in the present state of French feeling toward this country he could not transfer the great itself. But in the sense that the ideal and spiritual grace of the old theatre is to be lowered on the New York air is the wonder to be accomplished.

Perhaps the word of M. Copeau sent from his studio in Paris, whether actors and costumes are flocking with the idea of emigrating in their persons or their works to New York under the sign of M. Copeau, best expresses his plan. Thence he sends this message to the New York public:

"We hope to bring from France to America a message worthy of the long standing friendship and the new alliance of the two republics."

"The Theatre du Vieux-Colombier is to be a centre of French culture in New York. It will remain in close contact with its European home and is organized for the purpose of bringing to the United States of America the best of our artistic activities."

"This is a Paris theatre—the youngest and most vital of the theatres of France, recognized by the prominent artists and writers—which will establish itself here with you, American public, feeling deeply the respect it owes you. We bring you its repertoire, its costumes, its scenery, its complete organization, and its entire company, in which there is no star, though every member is an artist."

"We offer you sincerity, color, the movement of life, and beauty on the stage in all its forms, drama, tragedy, comedy, farce and pantomime."

"Our love is for poetry, gaiety, fantasy."

"We turn away from what is artificial, vulgar or pedantic."

"We shall endeavor to represent the spirit of France."

Of course the aspirations of the new enterprise director are here indicated with as much certainty as if they were already realized. But there may be in the career of M. Copeau so far justification for this confident expression of his hope.

The Theatre du Vieux-Colombier is the youngest of French theatres and the only one which can be compared to those numerous artistic stages that have been created abroad during the last twenty-five years. It was started in Paris by a group of artists and writers, under the direction of M. Jacques Copeau, on October 22, 1913. The aim and ambition of the founders has been to create an entirely free and unmastered French stage, devoted to the masterpiece of the past and at the same time open to the coming writers.

It represents the efforts and aspirations of modern France; it is also a theatre of traditions, seeking to give

are undergoing, for the Vieux-Colombier is still alive. It keeps in touch with its young soldiers, whose hardships have stimulated their moral strength, with its friends, known and unknown, whose generosity during these three years has enabled it to aid its actors and its needy mobilized members.

What may be called the spirit of the Vieux-Colombier has increased throughout the war. Beginning in November, 1915, work was taken up with a view to the future. Very young people, children, were trained in order to make up a fresh company. In September-October, 1915, Jacques Copeau paid a visit to Gordon Craig's School for the Art of the Theatre, in Florence, and to Jacques Dalcroze and Adolphe Appia in Switzerland.

Of course only a strong personality could have accomplished so much and it is in the career of the new director of the French playhouse in this city that founders are interested.

Born in Paris in 1879 of a family of artisans and manufacturers of the purest French blood from the Ile de France, Jacques Copeau aspired from his earliest years to take his place among the artists of his country. It is not, however, so much his precocity which strikes us as the constancy and the continuity of his effort, which has led him to his position at the head of the new movement in French drama.

While still a boy of the Lycee Condorcet he was seized with a passion for dramatic art. Rebelling against the middle class environment in which he was born he struggled against the traditions that stifled his development. From this very struggle he derived his first inspiration. He belongs to a family which has no intellectual past. He is the first of his race to attain distinction.

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LILLIAN RICE in "ON SOUV'NIR."

MUSIC TEACHERS AND PUPILS. The Van York Vocal Studios, 22 West Thirty-ninth street, will open on Monday, September 17. Voice trials will be given by appointment only.

HIPPODROME CHEERS. Upon filling out the proper inquiry blanks at the Hippodrome the inquisitive person will be informed that the first week's receipts from "Cheer Up," the new production, totalled nearly \$50,000 gross, and the producers are staggered at the thought of what to do with this unprecedented sum. At such a time of year they feel that this amount indicates the future returns will have to be carried to the bank by the trained elephants. The huge auditorium is said to have been packed twice daily, so that it was found impossible to wedge even an encore into it. The show has now been speeded up so that the final water spectacle of "Joytown," with its diving belles, ends, punctually at 5 and 11 o'clock, allowing the commuter to catch a train that will eliminate explanations to his wife.

## AMUSEMENTS.

### NEW YORK'S LEADING THEATRES AND SUCCESSES

**EMPIRE THEATRE**  
MONDAY, SEPT. 10 SEATS  
THURSDAY, SEPT. 13 SEATS  
CHARLES FROHMAN Presents  
**JULIA SANDERSON**  
**JOSEPH CAWTHORN**  
in the New Musical Comedy  
**RAMBLER ROSE**

**GEO. COHAN**  
TH. ATRE  
M. Phone Bryant 302  
KLAU & ERLANGER, MANAGERS  
**SPECIAL MAT. TOM W**  
J. FRED ZIMMERMAN, JR. presents  
**THIS WAY OUT**  
A NEW COMEDY BY  
**FRANK CRAVEN**  
with the following cast:  
Frank Craven, Charles Townbridge,  
Jed Prouty, Walter Baldwin, Jr.,  
David Burton, Harold Grau,  
Edith Lyle, Grace Goodall.  
Millicent Evans.

**FULTON**  
THEATRE, B'way & 46 St.  
Phone 700 Bryant. Evgs.  
8:15. Mat. Wed. & Sat. 2:15.  
**HENRY B. HARRIS** Estate Mgrs.  
SAT. NIGHT, SEPT. 8, at 8:15.  
The MESSRS. SHUBERT present.  
**MR. WALKER**  
**WHITESIDE**  
IN  
**THE PAWN**  
A New American Play by  
Azzie M. Aldrich and Joseph Noel.  
Box Office Opens To-morrow.

**DAVID BELASCO** announces  
The Opening of the Regular  
**BELASCO THEATRE SEASON**  
on THURSDAY NIGHT NEXT  
WITH  
**POLLY WITH A PAST**  
A COMEDY BY GEORGE MIDDLETON & GUY HOLTON.  
Cast includes:  
Ina Claire, Cyril Scott, Anne Meredith, H. Reeves-Smith, Louise Galloway, William Sampson, Winifred Fraser, Herbert Voss, Robert Fischer, George Christie, Thomas Reynolds.  
Evenings at 8:30. FIRST MATINEE Saturday 2:30.  
SEAT SALE STARTS TOMORROW

**COHAN & HARRIS** THEATRE  
MAT. TOMORROW (LAST DAY)  
WED. (POP) & SAT.  
Runniest American Comedy  
of Recent Years  
**A TAILOR MADE MAN**  
A Comedy  
"SETS LIVELY  
IN 4 ACTS BY  
COHAN & HARRIS  
with GRANT MITCHELL

**KNICKERBOCKER** B'WAY  
FOR 2 WEEKS. EVGS & MAT. DAILY  
MME. SARAH  
**BERNHARDT**  
and Her Company from the  
Theatre Sarah Bernhardt, Paris.  
Mon. Tues. & Wed. Evgs. 8:15. 4, 5.  
"PORTIA" and "CAMILLE."  
Thurs., Fri. & Sat. Matinees.  
"A STAR IN THE NIGHT."  
Thurs., Fri. & Sat. Evgs. 8:15. 6, 7, 8.  
"A STAR IN THE NIGHT."  
Thurs., Fri. & Sat. Matinees.  
"CAMILLE."  
Second Week's Programme:  
Mon. Tues. & Wed. Evgs. 8:15. 11, 12.  
"CLEOPATRA" and "LE VITRAIL."  
Mon. Tues. & Wed. Matinees.  
"Cleopatra" and "Le Vitrail."  
Thurs., Fri. & Sat. Evgs. 8:15. 14, 15.  
"The Wounded Soldier" and "Camille."  
Thurs., Fri. & Sat. Matinees.  
"HEZEL."  
The following Artists will appear at  
every performance of Bernhardt:  
Jean Cooper (Contralto), Jean Duval &  
Co. in "Gems of Art," Florence Harde-  
man (Violoncello), Anne Louise David  
(Harpe), Albert Darnelly (Saxophone),  
Home Fenton (Trompe), Helen Merrill  
(Soprano) and Interpretative  
WAR PRICES WILL PREVAIL  
NO SUNDAY PERFORMANCES  
MATS., Entire Gallery, 50c. Adm., \$1.  
All Orch., \$1.50. NIGHTS, 50c. to \$2.

**LIBERTY** West 42nd St.  
Phone BRYANT 27  
KLAU & ERLANGER, Mgrs.  
Evgs. 8:15. Mat. Wed. & Sat. 2:15  
"The Funniest Man in America  
in the Best Musical Show  
on Broadway."  
Louis Sherman, "THE GLOBE"  
Messrs. HITCHCOCK & EARL COETZ Present  
**Hitchy Koo**  
An Intimate Revue  
By Glen MacDonough & E. Ray Goetz  
Staged by Julian Mitchell & Leon Secol  
The Cast includes:  
Raymond Hitchcock, Grace La Rue  
Wm. Rock & Frances White  
Leon Errol, Irene Bordoni  
Anna & Winthrop, Gus Moore  
NEX'T MAT. LAST DAY.